BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 13-19* *May 13th, 2013*

- **The unemployment rate in B.C. fell to 6.4% in April**
- **One in 20 British Columbians identified as an Aboriginal person in 2011**
- **Housing starts in B.C. grew 11.2% in March**

Labour Force Survey

- **The number of employed persons in B.C. increased by 9,500 (*seasonally adjusted*) in April.** The increase in employment, combined with 4,700 fewer people participating in the labour force, pushed the unemployment rate down by 0.6 percentage points to 6.4%.

  All of the employment gains in April were in full-time employment (+16,500), reversing most of the losses in full-time employment seen in March. Private sector employment declined in April (-10,800) and public sector employment increased (+19,100). Employment increased in Alberta, while it fell in Manitoba, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The goods-producing sector was down 8,400 jobs (*seasonally adjusted*) in April compared to the previous month.** The losses were in the construction (-6,800) and manufacturing (-4,900) industries.

  Employment in the services-producing sector was up compared to March (+17,900). The largest employment gains were in the finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+15,400) and health care and social assistance (+13,500) industries. The industries that experienced the largest declines were accommodation and food services (-8,600), and retail and wholesale trade (-4,100).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

National Household Survey

- **According to the National Household Survey (NHS), there were 1,191,875 immigrants in B.C. in 2011, accounting for 27.6% of the province's population.** B.C. had the second highest foreign-born proportion of total population in Canada. Ontario, at 28.5%, had the highest. An estimated 1,162,915 immigrants arrived in Canada between 2006 and 2011. Of these, 185,115 (15.9%) came to B.C. These recent immigrants to B.C. were largely from Asia (135,650) followed by Europe (22,895) and the Americas (17,135). Of the Asian region, the largest source countries for recent immigrants were China (38,595), Philippines (27,785) and India (25,835).

  The census metropolitan area (CMA) of Vancouver was home to 913,310 immigrants in 2011, accounting for over three-quarters (76.6%) of all the foreign-born population in B.C. In the City of Richmond, nearly 60% (112,875) of the 189,305 residents were not born in Canada, making Richmond the Canadian municipality with the highest proportion of immigrant population. Similarly, the estimated number of immigrants in Burnaby (111,170) is greater than its estimated non-immigrant population (101,740).

  According to the 2011 NHS, the estimated number of non-permanent residents (NPRs) in B.C. is 64,995. Of the total NPR population at the national level, nearly one in five reside in British Columbia. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **One in 20 (232,290) British Columbians identified as an Aboriginal person in 2011.** The number of Aboriginal persons has increased 18.5% since the 2006 census. First Nations people accounted for the majority (67%) of the Aboriginal population in B.C., followed by Métis (30%).

Did you know...

One in five (19%) British Columbians strongly agree that work and the workplace is the most stressful part of their day and life. *Source: Ipsos-Reid*

The Aboriginal population in B.C. is much younger than the non-Aboriginal population, with a median age of 28.9 years, compared to 42.2 years for non-Aboriginal people. Nationally, the corresponding figures were 27.7 years and 40.6 years. Children and youth aged 24 and under made up almost one-half (44.5%) of all Aboriginal people in B.C., compared with 27.5% of the non-Aboriginal population. Aboriginal seniors (aged 65 and above) accounted for 6.2% of all Aboriginal people in the province, compared to 15.4% of the non-Aboriginal population.

British Columbia is home to the second largest Aboriginal population in the country—16.6% of Aboriginal people in Canada live in B.C., while Ontario is home to 21.5% (301,425) of the national Aboriginal population. Almost 40% of Prince Rupert's population identified as Aboriginal.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Visible minorities accounted for 27.3% (1,180,870) of the total population in B.C. in 2011. The number of visible minorities was 24.8% higher than in the 2006 census.** Of the national visible minority population, 18.8% reside in B.C., with Chinese (10.3%), South Asian (7.2%) and Filipino (2.9%) Canadians accounting for the largest minority groups. Nearly 9 out of 10 (87.3%) of the visible minority population in B.C. lives in the Vancouver CMA, including 93.9% of the Chinese visible minority. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Total housing starts in British Columbia grew 11.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in March, entirely due to a rise in urban starts (+13.1%), as activity in rural (-11.6%) areas fell.** Multi-family (+39.0%) dwellings and apartments (+90.5%) drove activity in urban centres, but there were notable slowdowns in row (-50.6%), single (-28.5%), and semi-detached (-23.7%) housing. In Vancouver, total housing starts surged (+39.6%), following a dip (-9.3%) in February, while other urban areas in the province saw housing starts increase 15.2%. Canadian housing starts rose 0.4% in March. *Data Source: CMHC*

- **The value of building permits issued by B.C. municipalities increased 1.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) in March, well below the national average (+8.6%).** The rise followed a 10.2% drop in February. Permits for residential (+1.9%) projects edged up slightly, after registering a 17.4% decline in February. Planned spending on non-residential (+1.2%) projects was boosted by industrial (+65.1%) building intentions, while commercial (-0.8%) and industrial & government (-40.9%) construction intentions lagged. Permits rose sharply in Victoria (+141.5%), Abbotsford-Mission (+68.8%), and Kelowna (+42.7%), but dipped in Vancouver (-11.9%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **During the first quarter of 2013, the value of building permits issued in the province fell 16.2% (*unadjusted*) below the level recorded in the same period of 2012.** Nechako (+33.1%) and Cariboo (+13.8%) were the only regions to record an uptick in investment intentions. Permits fell sharply in North Coast (-96.1%), as industrial intentions plunged 98.4%. More moderate rates of decline were recorded in Northeast (-12.8%), Kootenay (-11.21%), Vancouver Island/Coast (-7.4%), Mainland/Southwest (-4.1%), and Thompson/Okanagan (-3.4%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

Oops!

In last week's Infoline, *the second sentence of the bullet on Canadian Portfolio Investment Abroad contained an error. It should have read:*

"The market value of securities issued in the United States, which accounts for 57% of Canadian portfolio investment abroad, grew 7.8%."

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,639.9	0.8
Canada	35,056.1	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Feb 2013	3,270	0.3
Merchandise Exports - Mar 2013	3,001	12.9
Retail Sales - Feb 2013	5,115	-0.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Mar 2013)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.5	0.8
Vancouver	0.8	1.1
Victoria	0.2	0.7
Canada	1.0	1.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2013	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	9.5	
Labour Force - BC	2,471.0	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,312.1	0.4
Unemployed - BC	158.8	-8.3
		Mar 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.4	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 8/2013	May 9/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.20
- 5 year	5.14	5.44
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 8/2013	May 9/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0023	1.0015
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9967	0.9991
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr 2013	one year ago
BC	877.05	3.9
Canada	885.20	3.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2011 Census Profiles

We have added files for Health geographies, School Districts, College Regions and Ministry of Children and Family Development Regions. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Statistics, April 2013
- Earnings & Employment Trends, April 2013

To Release this week

- Consumer Price Index, April 2013

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